

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

SUNIL PATEL,
RATANSHA VAKIL, and
LAKHMICHAND LOHANI,

Defendant.

INDICTMENT

25 Cr.

25 CRIM

17 3

COUNT ONE
(Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering)

The Grand Jury charges:

1. From at least in or about April 2023 through at least in or about December 2023, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, SUNIL PATEL, RATANSHA VAKIL, and LAKHMICHAND LOHANI, the defendants, and others known and unknown, willfully and knowingly combined, conspired, confederated, and agreed together and with each other to commit money laundering, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(1)(B)(i).

2. It was a part and an object of the conspiracy that SUNIL PATEL, RATANSHA VAKIL, and LAKHMICHAND LOHANI, the defendants, and others known and unknown, knowing that the property involved in a financial transaction represented the proceeds of some form of unlawful activity, would and did conduct and attempt to conduct such a financial transaction, which transaction affected interstate and foreign commerce and involved the use of a financial institution which was engaged in, and the activities of which affected, interstate and foreign commerce, and which in fact involved the proceeds of specified unlawful activity, to wit, wire fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343, knowing that the transaction

was designed in whole and in part to conceal and disguise the nature, the location, the source, the ownership, and the control of the proceeds of specified unlawful activity, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(1)(B)(i).

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h).)

COUNT TWO
(Conspiracy to Commit Bank Fraud)

The Grand Jury further charges:

3. From at least on or about May 19, 2023 through at least on or about May 23, 2023, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, SUNIL PATEL, RATANSHA VAKIL, and LAKHMICHAND LOHANI, the defendants, and others known and unknown, willfully and knowingly combined, conspired, confederated, and agreed together and with each other to commit bank fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1344.

4. It was a part and an object of the conspiracy that SUNIL PATEL, RATANSHA VAKIL, and LAKHMICHAND LOHANI, the defendants, and others known and unknown, knowingly would and did execute, and attempt to execute, a scheme and artifice to defraud a financial institution, as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 20, and to obtain moneys, funds, credits, assets, securities, and other property owned by, and under the custody and control of, such a financial institution, by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1344, to wit, PATEL, VAKIL, and LOHANI agreed to make and cause to be made false statements to financial institutions, including by submitting and aiding and abetting the submission of forged and altered documents, in order to obtain funds under the custody and control of those financial institutions.

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349.)

COUNT THREE
(Bank Fraud)

The Grand Jury further charges:

5. From at least on or about May 19, 2023 through at least on or about May 23, 2023, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, SUNIL PATEL, RATANSHA VAKIL, and LAKHMICHAND LOHANI, the defendants, knowingly executed, and attempted to execute, a scheme and artifice to defraud a financial institution, as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 20, and to obtain moneys, funds, credits, assets, securities, and other property owned by, and under the custody and control of, such a financial institution, by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, to wit, PATEL, VAKIL, and LOHANI engaged in a scheme to make false statements to financial institutions, including by submitting and aiding and abetting the submission of forged and altered documents, in order to obtain funds under the custody and control of those financial institutions.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1344 and 2.)

FORFEITURE ALLEGATIONS

6. As a result of committing the offense alleged in Count One of this Indictment, SUNIL PATEL, RATANSHA VAKIL, and LAKHMICHAND LOHANI, the defendants, shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(1), any and all property, real and personal, involved in said offense, or any property traceable to such property, including but not limited to a sum of money in United States currency representing the amount of property involved in said offense.

7. As a result of committing the offenses alleged in Counts Two and Three of this Indictment, SUNIL PATEL, RATANSHA VAKIL, and LAKHMICHAND LOHANI, the defendants, shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section

982(a)(2)(A), any and all property constituting, or derived from, proceeds the defendants obtained directly or indirectly, as a result of the commission of said offenses, including but not limited to a sum of money in United States currency representing the amount of proceeds traceable to the commission of said offenses.

Substitute Assets Provision

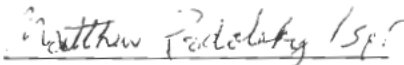
8. If any of the above-described forfeitable property, as a result of any act or omission of the defendants:

- a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third person;
- c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court;
- d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
- e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be subdivided without difficulty;

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), to seek forfeiture of any other property of the defendants up to the value of the above forfeitable property.

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 982;
Title 21, United States Code, Section 853; and
Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461.)


FOREPERSON


MATTHEW PODOLSKY
Acting United States Attorney